

THE MAYOR'S REPORT

"What's Happening Servant Leader?"



Photo from Town of Bladensburg's Lunch with a COP at Elizabeth Seton High School

Mayor Walter Lee James, Jr.

20 March 2017

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

"Valuing People Over Position" – Walter Lee James, Jr.



Mayor Walter Lee James, Jr. February 2017 Community Report

Substantive Meetings/Events

Listening Session with County Executive Baker

Our First Lady Takisha D. James, our town administrator Debi Sandlin and I attended a listening session last month that was held at the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. It was an opportunity for municipalities around the county to speak directly to the County Executive and his team regarding what issues, concerns or suggestions for the county's upcoming FY18 County Budget. The Town of Bladensburg on behalf of our residents put forth the following topics for consideration:

- The construction of a new Bladensburg Library
- Increase funding and in-kind support for municipalities around economic development
- Increase funding for the clean-up and sustainment of our Bladensburg Waterfront Park (Anacostia River)
- Reversal of the reduction in the percentage of tax differential payments back to our communities for services performed by our respected towns and cities. (***we were successful in reversing the decision to reduce the tax differential payments***).
- A need for more up-front municipal approval and input as it relates to what businesses exist in our community.
- Additional support and transportation funding for our Seasoned Citizens
- More support for our schools (afterschool programs, vocational programs)
- Additional lighting on our pedestrian and bike trails
- Additional support and funding for those who are differently-abled in our community.
- Veteran Assistance
- Homelessness

Town of Bladensburg's 5 Year Strategic Plan Draft Review

The town hosted a meeting to review and discuss with the community our 5-year Strategic Plan draft. Thanks to many of our residents who came out to give their input and suggestions. It was extremely productive and collaborative. The Strategic Plan covered the following areas:

- Economic Development
- Police and Public Safety
- Infrastructure and Roads
- Collaboration and Partnerships

Our next step is to adopt the 5 Year Strategic Plan and to then develop an Action Plan to accomplish the goals of the plan.

Prince George's County Re-entry Program (hosted by PGC EDC)

It was an honor to attend and support our very own Office LoQune Brown, who was a member to a panel constructed to discuss connecting our brother and sisters who are re-entering society to possible job opportunities. In addition, information was provided regarding assistance in having items expunged from your record. The town is hoping to have another re-entry event in town to let our residents know of these opportunities.

Work session with Representatives of Ernest Maier

Ernest Maier is a long-standing business here in the town of Bladensburg. They are seeking to construct a concrete batching plant in the industrial park near their existing business. The representatives met with the Council and I on March 15, 2017 to discuss the project. Therefore, will be a community public hearing regarding the special exception to construct the plant held on Monday, March 27, 2017. ***(Attached is a copy of the presentation given by Ernest Maier)***

Lunch with a COP

What a power-packed program!!! This initiative is spear headed by our COPs Officer LoQune Brown in conjunction with our First Lady Takisha James and our police department. Since our February meeting we have had lunch with students at Elizabeth Seton and Bladensburg High schools. One word that could describe these lunches: Powerful!!! The conversation and interaction with the young people is eye opening and life changing.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Public Hearing regarding request for special exception to construct a concrete batching plant in the Industrial Park by Ernest Maier. – Monday, March 27, 2017 at 7:00pm.